

Activity: International Park Affairs

Activity Summary

Program Component	2002 Enacted	2003 Estimate	FY 2004			Change From 2003 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Office of International Affairs	947	951	+8	-101	858	-93
Southwest Border Program	767	768	0	0	768	0
Total Requirements	1,714	1,719	+8	-101	1,626	-93

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 1	National Park Service Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 470a-1	National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (Title IV)
42 U.S.C. 4332	National Environmental Policy Act
16 U.S.C. 1537	Endangered Species Act, as amended
19 U.S.C. 3301 <i>et seq.</i>	North American Free Trade Agreement, December 17, 1992

Activity Overview

The National Park Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance and support functions that meaningfully complement the Service's domestic role. These include: support to Regional Offices and park units so that they can collaborate effectively with neighboring countries to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitation of the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology worldwide; and formation of a partnership with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

Program Mission ...

The National Park Service is dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service is also responsible for managing a great variety of national and international programs designed to help extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and **the world**.

Draft DOI Outcome Goals Applicable to this Activity

Resource Protection

1.1 Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources

The programs of this activity support this goal by coordinating and providing technical assistance on an international level to improve and maintain proper function to watersheds and landscapes. For example, the Southwest Border Program Office works with counterparts in Mexico to improve the health of the Rio Grande.

1.2 Sustain Biological Communities

The programs of this activity support this goal by coordinating and providing technical assistance on an international level to promote the national park idea, which helps biological communities to flourish, including migrating species that may spend part of their time in the United States. The United States-Mexico Affairs Office provides support for an ecological bi-national partnership to enhance protection of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem.

1.3 Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage Resources

The programs of this activity support this goal by coordinating and providing technical assistance to protect cultural and natural heritage resources on an international level, including participation in the World Heritage Committee and the World Parks Congress.

Recreation**3.1 Improve Access to Appropriate Recreation Opportunities on DOI Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters**

The programs of this activity support this goal by coordinating and providing technical assistance on an international level to promote recreational opportunities, improve capacities to provide access for recreation, and manage recreation activities seamlessly. For example, the United States-Mexico Affairs Office is collaborating with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History to establish a bi-national historic trail.

3.2 Ensure a Quality Experience and Enjoyment of Natural and Cultural Resources on DOI Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters

The programs of this activity support this goal by coordinating and providing technical assistance on an international level to enhance the quality of recreation opportunities, interpretation and education programs and ensure responsible use in recreation. This activity facilitates international training opportunities and symposiums that add to the quality and breadth of interpretive and educational programs.

Activity: International Park Affairs
Program Component: Office of International Affairs

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

In response to both Executive and Legislative directives, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance America's and the world's parks and protected areas through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. The NPS shares its recognized leadership in natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues. OIA coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-the-parks and visits by international park professionals and high-ranking officials to NPS sites. It also assists in implementation of international obligations that arise from Legislative mandates and Executive initiatives.

- **Long-Term Programs.** The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative international agreements to conduct long-term programs for protected areas conservation and resource management with key international partners. Each of these international partner countries will have shared significant experiences and knowledge on protected areas issues that will increase their viability as regional role models for and partners with other nations.

The National Park Service also shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along United States borders with Canada and Mexico as well as with neighboring Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities initiated directly between NPS park units and field offices, and their counterparts across the border.

- **Technical Assistance.** Every year, technical assistance requests from a wide variety of countries around the globe arise on an ad hoc basis. They are not usually included in OIA's annual planning

exercises. If funding resources exist to meet these requests, the activities are developed and implemented.

OIA coordinates with NPS field office staff to facilitate training opportunities, both domestically and abroad, for park and conservation professionals. Park Service employees benefit from their direct interaction and exchanges with their international professional colleagues.

Workload and performance tables are found after the justification of program changes at the end of this activity.

① Information on the NPS International Affairs Program is available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

FY 2002 Program Performance Accomplishments

- A two-year work plan between NPS and Mexico's National Commission for Natural Protected Areas was signed by Secretary Norton and her Mexican counterpart, Secretary Victor Lichtinger. Completion of the work plan was part of a larger Memorandum of Understanding negotiated by the two agencies in 2000.
- A 20-person delegation of Chinese park managers traveled on a study tour to several U.S park units and attended a three-day training course on park management and operations.
- OIA met with 147 international park and protected area managers, from 20 different countries; the number of international visitors that arrived was lower than the usual 200-300 because of impacts upon travel due to September 11th.
- The Service hosted international volunteers at 51 different parks through the International-Volunteers-in-Parks (IVIP) program.
- NPS Deputy Director attended the World Protected Area Leadership Forum held in Sydney, Australia, which finalized the agenda and workshop topics for the upcoming 5th World Parks Congress in 2003.

FY 2003 Program Performance (Based on the FY 2003 President's Budget)

In FY 2003, Office of International Affairs plans to:

- Renew Memoranda of Understanding between the National Park Service and the national park agencies of the Peoples Republic of China, Venezuela and Argentina.
- Conclude new bi-lateral agreements between National Park Service and South African National Parks and between National Park Service and Parks Australia at the 5th World Parks Congress 2003 in Durban, South Africa.
- Conduct a joint meeting of U.S. and Canadian World Heritage site Superintendents on our joint periodic reporting exercise.
- Develop, plan and begin NPS participation in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.
- Provide continuing support and participation at two World Heritage Committee meetings under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
- Organize and facilitate a workshop in Honduras for U.S., Canadian and Latin American ornithologists.

FY 2004 Budget Request: Office of International Affairs

Request Component	Amount
FY 2003 Budget Estimate	951
Programmatic Changes	
• Information Technology Reduction	-1
• International Park Affairs	-100
TOTAL, Program Changes	-101
Uncontrollable Changes	+8
FY 2004 Budget Request	858

Net Change

-93

¹Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

Activity: International Park Affairs
Program Component: Southwest Border Program

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

The National Park Service manages seven park areas along the 20,000-mile border shared between the United States and Mexico. They include Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Chamizal National Memorial, Big Bend National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Amistad National Recreation Area, and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site. The Service administers roughly 18 percent of the land on the United States side of the border. Mexico manages nine protected areas in the U.S./Mexico Border Region. These areas include Parque Nacional Constitucion de 1857, Alto Golfo y Delta del Rio Colorado, El Pinacate, Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva Federal Sierra de los Ajos, Canyon de Santa Elena, Maderas del Carmen, Parque Nacional de los Novillos and Reserva de Cuatrocieneegas. Memoranda of Understanding have been established between the NPS and two Mexican federal agencies for collaboration on the protection, preservation, and conservation of shared natural and cultural resources along the border.

The NPS United States-Mexico Affairs Office (MEAF) was established to fulfill the mission of strengthening cooperation between entities in the United States and Mexico for the design and implement strategies to conserve natural and cultural heritage shared by both countries. The MEAF office located at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, facilitates the completion of Service responsibilities related to border park protection and responds to environmental concerns. This is being accomplished through the following international activities:



- Park management and planning, wildlife research field training courses, environmental education, organization and support for international forums on conservation, and providing technical assistance on natural and cultural resource management plans.
- Continued leadership and support for international forums on the management of protected areas and wildlife.
- Continued leadership role on the United States Department of the Interior Field Coordinating Committee to achieve a unified agency approach to bi-national management issues with Mexico.
- Continued support of the formation of an ecological bi-national partnership within the Sonoran Desert Region.
- Assisting New Mexico State University to form a bi-national education program for the conservation and management of natural resources along the United States/Mexico Border.
- Collaborating with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History for the establishment of a binational Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Historic Trail in both countries.
- Working with United States/Mexico federal, state, municipal, and private entities on the Mimbres-Paquime connection trail located in southern New Mexico and northern Chihuahua, and La Ruta de Sonora located in southwestern Arizona and Baja California, Sonora, Mexico.
- Collaborating with Mexican colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for archeological and paleontological resources in the Border region.
- Continued partnership role and support for international forums that focus on the protection, management, and conservation of historic and cultural areas.

Workload and performance tables are found after the justification of program changes at the end of this activity.

FY 2002 Program Performance Accomplishments

Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Program:

- Camino Real de Tierra Adentro General Management Planning Workshop and Site Visits to NPS/BLM Protected Areas in New Mexico.
- The 8th International Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.
- International Workshop on Cultural Tourism for the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (New Mexico).
- Completion of an NPS-INAH web page.
- Inventory of historic sites along the Camino Real in Mexico.
- Completion of a joint GMP workshop for U.S.-Mexico on the Camino Real (Saltillo, Coahuila).

Other Programs (Organization and coordination of U.S.-Mexico Exchange program including training courses and international forums):

- 4th International Symposium on the Restoration of Historic Adobe Structures.
- "Getting to Know Mexico" Training Course.
- 5th International Symposium on the Restoration of Historic Adobe Structures (Chalchihuites, Zacatecas).
- 11th. U.S./Mexico Border States Conference on Recreation, Protected Areas and Wildlife (McAllen, Texas)



Hermitage and Fort in Asientos, Mexico (Photo by Adrian Caldera)

Ongoing transborder share natural and cultural resource management projects:

- El Correo Real - Protegiendo el Corredor Migratorio de la Mariposa Monarca (US/Mexico Border States).
- Mimbres-Paquime Connection Program (New Mexico and Chihuahua).
- Sonoran Desert Ecosystem Monitoring Program (Arizona-Sonora).
- La Ruta de Sonora Ecotourism Association Program (Arizona-Sonora).
- Community-based Conservation in the Santa Cruz Watershed (Arizona-Sonora).

Border Park Projects:

- Dedicated Mexico's first Camino Real interpretive wayside exhibit along the historic trail in Asientos.
- Amistad NRA – Monarch butterfly program offered to train local educators on both sides of the border to teach species habitat protection, thereby introducing the Monarch to local children during school and summer camps.
- Big Bend NP – "Los Diablos Firefighting Program" upgraded wildland fire equipment to address work safety and crew efficiency.
- Chiricahua NM – Established a new work plan between the Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve, Coronado NM, and Chiricahua NM. One of the focal points of the two-year work plan is the inclusion of work/training details that assist employees in progressing in their profession.
- Organ Pipe Cactus NM – Developed a long-term monitoring plan to assess the damages to vegetation caused by border crossings and drug smugglers.
- Coronado NM – This program monitored the riparian area of Fort Bowie NHS. In addition, avian education programs were held at schools on both sides of the border, where students learned more about the habitat around them through a combination of classroom programs and field trips.
- Tumacacori NHP – Conservation workshops were held in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico to train professionals and others in the most current paint and plaster techniques for historic structures.
- University of Arizona – Inventory and monitoring program in Estuarine systems in southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa, Mexico.

- New Mexico State University – Grassland Bird Wintering Ecology on the Gulf Coast of south Texas and northern Mexico.

FY 2003 Program Performance *(Based on the FY 2003 President's Budget)*

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Program:

- Camino Real Symposium in the Española area and publication of El Caminante Magazine”.
- Archeo-Historical Assessment of Apache and Mexican Military Sites on the Camino.
- Real Rapid Ethnographic Assessment of Tourism Impacts on Indigenous and Hispanic Communities Along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in the U.S. and Mexico.
- Camino Real Educational/Promotional Video or CD Program.
- NPS-INAH Camino Real GMP Field Trip to Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, and Aguascalientes.

Camino Real de los Tejas Program:

- Colloquium on “El Camino de los Tejas.

Mimbres-Paquime Connection Program:

- Projects related to conservation, education, promotion, and tourism along the Mimbres-Paquime Connection trail route in New Mexico and Chihuahua (Ongoing).

U.S.-Mexico Spanish Missions Program:

- Projects focus on the management, conservation, and interpretation of the U.S.-Mexico Spanish Missions in both countries (ongoing).

Other Projects (Organization and coordination of US-Mexico Exchange program including training courses and international forums):

- Symposium-Workshop on Management of Protected Cultural areas.
- TICRAT Adobe Workshop.
- Getting to Know Mexico Training Course.
- Instruction Materials and Model Curricula for Training Courses in Cultural Property Protection.
- Educational workshop for U.S.-Mexico teachers at Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe NP.

Sister Parks Collaboration

- As agreed upon by DOI Secretary Norton at the Nov. 23, 2002, BNC meeting, the NPS-CONANP Agreement Managers meeting of NPS superintendents and Mexico Natural Protected Areas.

Border Park Projects:

- New Mexico State University Grassland Bird Wintering Ecology on the Gulf Coast of South Texas and Northern Mexico.

FY 2004 Budget Request: Southwest Border Program

Request Component	Amount
FY 2003 Budget Estimate	768
Programmatic Changes	
• Southwest Border Program	No Change
TOTAL, Program Changes	0
Uncontrollable Changes	No Change
FY 2004 Budget Request	768
Net Change	No Change

¹Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

Justification of FY 2004 Budget Request for International Park Affairs

Request Component	Amount
FY 2003 Budget Estimate	1,719
Programmatic Changes	
• Information Technology Reduction	-1
• International Park Affairs	-100
TOTAL, Program Changes	-101
Uncontrollable changes	+8
FY 2004 Budget Request	1,626
Net change	-93

Information Technology Reduction: -\$0.001 million

The Department of the Interior is undertaking significant technology reforms to improve the management of IT investments and to realize short- and long-term efficiencies and savings. The reforms include consolidated purchases of hardware and software; consolidation of support functions including help desks, email support and web services; and coordination of training. The International Park Affairs activity includes a reduction of \$0.001 million to reflect the effect of these management reforms on the Office of International Affairs.

International Park Affairs. -\$0.100 Million

The proposed reduction of \$0.1 million in International Park Affairs reflects a plan to curtail some international activities. This will occur as the NPS focuses its resources on achieving its highest mission priorities, limiting international involvement to essential initiatives that provide a direct benefit to the NPS.

Workload Tables: International Park Affairs**International Park Affairs Workload Factors**

Workload Factors	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Estimate	FY 2004 Estimate
Response to outside stakeholder requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of new or renewed contacts	19	10	10
Number of long-term programs implemented	8	8	Maintain existing programs
Response to technical assistance requests	100%	100%	50%
Response to park requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of international volunteers working to strengthen NPS resource management	174	125	125

Southwestern Border Program Performance Information

Performance measure	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Estimate	FY 2004 Estimate
Percent of states, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation	93.8%	93.8%	93.8%